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MUSCOVITE DESIGNS ON MANCHURIA.

BY L. MINER.

FOR half a century, Manchuria has been the Naboth's vineyard upon which Russia has cast covetous eyes. In 1851, Russia obtained possession of "the sparsely populated but widely extended districts of the Amur." Since then she has been watching across the breadth of the continent of Asia for opportunities to creep southward. And at the close of the war between China and Japan, she made a leap toward her goal. Japan's presence in the Liaotung Peninsula was a menace to the balance of power. Therefore, Russia ousted her and took her place! Count Cassini was then Russian Minister in Peking, and soon the world had reason to suspect that something very private but very momentous was going on at the Chinese capital. Russia smilingly denied it at the time; but now, when her right to build railroads in Manchuria and to guard them with soldiers is questioned, she holds up the Cassini Convention, and asks with an air of injured innocence why no objections were raised at the time when the treaty giving the rights in question was made! Li Hung Chang could have given the history of the Cassini Convention. Perhaps, it would have been the history of his own dishonor. These concessions were Russia's reward for "saving" Chinese territory from the clutch of Japan. China's "face" was saved by the promise that the railroad should revert to her after a long term of years, a promise easy to make, as easy to break for the perfidious Muscovite, who determined that long before this term expired the country through which this railroad passes should be as completely Russianized as the territory about St. Petersburg.

These gains were all supposedly commercial, giving Russia the open port on the Pacific which was her "ultimate destiny." Close to this port of Talienwan or Dalny was China's Gibraltar, Port

Arthur. It had been the pride of the empire previous to its ignominious fall before the Japanese, who unfairly approached it from the rear instead of from its impregnable front! In the winter of 1897-8, Germany acquired her foothold on the coast of Shantung by standing on the graves of two Catholic missionaries. This was the prelude to the disappearance of the dragon-flag from Port Arthur; for soon the symbol of the Russian Empire was floating from its battlements. The transformation was made in a thick cloud of mystery, which, to this day, has not cleared away. Perhaps the historian will never record whether it was force or gold or hypnotism which transferred this key of North China to the hand of her insidious foe.

Li Hung Chang represented China at the coronation of the Czar, and returned a more pronounced Russophile than ever. What is there about the Russian that enables him to cast a spell over ruler, diplomat, college professor, senator, editor, the best and wisest who venture to enter his domain and submit to his blandishments? Certain it is that many are bewitched to see with Russian eyes, and to speak in Russia's favor. But this illusion is temporary. Long residence dispels it. If the traveller would learn the language either of the Russian Moujik or the Chinese people, he would see beneath the glamour of surface-prosperity brought by railroads and the iron administration of the Muscovite Empire. He would see a great open sore. He would sympathize with the indignation of every patriotic Chinese at the alienation of valuable territory through Russian duplicity and the intrigues of selfish Chinese politicians. Righteous wrath at foreign aggression, true patriotism standing at bay, played their part in the convulsion of the closing year of the century, a small part, perhaps; yet let us give even the devil his due and admit that wild infatuation, greed, and cruelty were not the only factors in the Boxer outbreak.

The mad war with the world began. Far up in the north, where the great Amur flows, deluded Chinese bombarded the town of Blagovestchensk, killing three Russians. A tragedy followed. A picture will ever haunt the memory of those who read the story, a picture of the great river half choked with the bodies of thousands of men, women, and children, of desolated homes, of barbarities to put a savage to the blush. Sir E. Ashmead Bartlett, speaking in the House of Commons, described

the crimes committed by the Russians against the Chinese in Manchuria as far more atrocious than the revolting butcheries of Armenians by the Turks. They were stirred to this swift, terrible vengeance, you say, by Chinese treachery? Can the attack be called treachery, when for a month war had been raging in North China? Would the treachery of the Chinese soldiers give a Christian nation the right to dye a river with the blood of the wives and children of her foe? The Russian government cannot wash its hands of this crime, for the War Office was in direct, telegraphic communication with the Amur region, and there is evidence that General Gribsky was acting under explicit orders. General Orloff received similar orders, but telegraphed to St. Petersburg, "I entreat to be allowed to spare the peaceful inhabitants." It is a significant fact that General Orloff was subsequently degraded by the War Office, but the Czar commuted the punishment to that of an "Imperial reprimand."

Blagovestchensk was not an isolated instance of cruelty. It is ever Russia's policy thus to strike terror to the hearts of those who venture to affront her. In the summer of 1900, the path of Russian troops from the sea to Tientsin, from Tientsin to Peking, was marked by a trail of blood. The Russian occupation of a portion of Peking and its vicinity was brief, but it was long enough for cruelty and lust to claim their victims by thousands, and the name of the Russian soldier will ever be execrated in North China. Defenceless women could not escape the Cossack brutes, even by fleeing from their homes and hiding in the high grain. Their pursuers formed a long cordon, circling about them in ever narrowing lines, and the scenes which followed no pen can describe. Those who lived in China during this reign of terror, and day after day heard heart-sickening tales directly from the lips of the sufferers, will understand, if Russia some day reaps a dread harvest of hatred. The fame of some other nations is stained, too, but the universal testimony was, "The Russian soldiers are the worst of all!" Why record these revolting facts? Because the time may come when they will be needed to explain other facts.

The next act is comedy, not tragedy. A week after the Allies relieved Peking, the Powers were informed, through an official communication, of Russia's purpose to withdraw both her legation

and her troops from Peking. The reasons given for this strange movement were that she was not at war with China, and that negotiations could be carried on more conveniently from Tientsin. The true reason was that Russia *was* at war with China in Manchuria on such an extensive scale that she was reluctant to spare any troops for Peking. Arguments and persuasions having failed to move any of the legations from Peking, Russia tried the power of example. Late in September, the Russian legation received a telegram which sent it post-haste to Tientsin. The ruse failed; no other legations followed; and soon the Russian legation domiciled itself once more in the capital.

But Russia really withdrew her troops from Peking, with the exception of the legation guard, and took no further part in the policing of Peking during the year of occupation. A native paper took the ground that this was done largely to curry favor with the Chinese, especially with the corrupt government of the Empress Dowager. It was interesting to see Russia, with her blood-stained hands, posing as the humanitarian friend of China. She played the same rôle during the treaty negotiations. The Powers at first demanded severe punishment for the leaders who were responsible for the Boxer atrocities. Through the influence of America, Japan, and Russia, more lenient measures were adopted. But long before the change had been accepted by all of the Powers, Russia had told Li Hung Chang that *she* was proposing the lightening of penalty. Thus she gained a reputation for clemency, to aid her in winning golden concessions in the future.

And, without doubt, Russia helped to throw the mantle of charity over the biggest villain of all. The events of 1900 incriminated no one more deeply than Jung Lu. When he fled with the Court, he might well have felt that the noose was already around his unworthy neck. There has not been one word of censure against him in Imperial edict or foreign communication; and to-day he stands first in the councils of the Empress Dowager. Why has Russia strengthened the party of Reactionaries, the power of the corrupt Empress Dowager? Because she had bought them; they were Russophiles; with them in power she might work out her deep, dark plots undisturbed. She does not favor the Emperor; she does not want China to be strong, any more than she wants Turkey to be strong; she wants China to

fall to pieces by slow, moral leprosy, that she may pick up the pieces one by one. This would be more to her liking than immediate partition, for that would compel Russia to share her destined victim with other Powers. The Chinese history of the past few years cannot be understood, unless these ulterior motives of the great Land-devourer are known.

During the last months of 1900, it was vaguely felt that occult influences were working in Peking. Late in September, Li Hung Chang had appeared in the capital, escorted by his dear friends, the Russians. In Shanghai and Tientsin, frequent interviews had been held with Russian civil officials. In November, Prince Oochtomsky, who had been the host of Li Hung Chang during his stay in St. Petersburg, visited Peking to make sure that the Chinese plenipotentiary was still securely hypnotized. Russian diplomacy was also working in Hsian, and it is uncertain in which capital the terms of the Manchurian Convention were first discussed. The Powers might take alarm if it were known that negotiations with Russia were being carried on in either city, so the agreement was secretly concluded between Russian officers and the Tartar General at Moukden. But it had still to be ratified. Li Hung Chang had a helpmate in the Chinese Minister at St. Petersburg, and all went merrily along in the communications between Peking, Hsian, and St. Petersburg. Then the secret began to leak out. That unimportant, little argument between Russian and Chinese officers in Moukden for the temporary adjustment of local matters began to assume ominous proportions. It was dimly suspected that Russia, while uniting with the other Powers in the public peace negotiations, was playing her own quiet, little game with China. It was hard to accuse her of such duplicity, for she had cordially assented to the terms upon which Great Britain and Germany had agreed in October, "not to make use of the present complications to obtain for themselves any territorial advantages in Chinese dominions." Russia had asserted that, "from the commencement of the present complications, she was the first to lay down the maintenance of the integrity of the Chinese Empire as a fundamental principle of her policy in China." Yet at this very time she was forging chains about Manchuria! The London *Times* of the third of January, 1901, contained the first definite news of the Russo-Chinese Agreement, the full text of which was soon in the

hands of Lord Lansdowne. Russia, ignorant of the fact that this incriminating document was in the possession of England's Foreign Minister, continued her subterfuges, and the Russian Foreign Office assured the Japanese Chargé d'Affaires that nothing was known of the alleged agreement. Two or three weeks later, Russia was compelled to admit that there were negotiations with reference to guaranteeing her territory against the recurrence of attacks on the Manchurian side. "These arrangements would not involve any territorial acquisition, or the exercise of protectorate by Russia." When one reads the terms of this agreement, which the North China *Herald* well says "gives Manchuria back to China with one hand, and takes it away again with the other," the term "disingenuous" seems too mild to apply to Russia. Let us quote from the admirable summary and comments of the North China *Herald*:

"The preamble states that Chinese officials are allowed to assume their functions at Moukden and throughout the province of Fengtien, on the conditions that follow:

"(1) That General Tseng pacifies the province and helps Russia to build her railway. (2) That General Tseng provides board and lodging and kind treatment for all Russians in military occupation of the province. (3) That General Tseng disarms all the Chinese soldiers in the province, and hands over to the Russians all his munitions of war. (4) That General Tseng dismantles and destroys all fortresses, defences, and powder-magazines which the Russians do not require for their own use. (5) Russia will give up Newchwang, and any other places in Manchuria occupied by her soldiers, as soon as she is satisfied that peace and good order have been restored in the province. (6) The Chinese are to employ local police to restore peace and good order in the province. (7) The Tartar General is to have a Russian Political Resident at his side to control him. (8) If, while the local police are restoring peace and order, an emergency occurs beyond their powers to cope with, the Tartar General shall ask the Russian Resident for reinforcements. (9) The Russian text of this agreement is the standard text.

"It does not need much ingenuity to show what a mockery this is. Manchuria is to be restored to the Chinese as long as they keep order in a turbulent province, full of armed and mounted bandits, without soldiers, arms, arsenals, forts, or powder stores; and, meanwhile, they are to prove their humiliation to the people by providing board and lodging for all the troops the Russians send in to permanently occupy the province. The Chinese are to keep peace and order and protect the railway—under pain of losing the province altogether—with unarmed local police; and, while the Tartar General will be responsible for what he does or leaves undone, he is to do nothing without consulting the Russian Political Resident, who will have at his disposal the only armed

force in the province, except the bandits. This is what Russia calls maintaining the integrity of the Chinese Empire."

England and Japan had early raised their voices in protest against this treaty. At one time, war between Russia and Japan seemed imminent unless the treaty were withdrawn. Minister Wu was instructed to appeal to America, and on the fifteenth of February Secretary Hay sent warning to China that it would be unwise and dangerous to have separate and secret negotiations with any single Power; and he gave notice that the United States would not recognize the validity of such treaties. Similar communications were sent to all of the Powers, and Russia was asked to furnish the United States with an official copy of the agreement. To refuse was awkward for Russia after the assurances which she had given; to comply was still more awkward since it would prove her a liar and foil her plot. So no copy was furnished.

Meanwhile, what of the attitude of China? The Emperor had already sent his appeal for help to other lands. According to a native paper, he also wrote a letter to the Czar in answer to one received from that potentate. This letter states that, although His Majesty of Russia assures the Emperor of China that this treaty will not interfere in the least with China's sovereignty and full rights in Manchuria, and that the Chinese administration will be restored to the *status quo ante* (that is, prior to occupation by Russian troops), still a careful inspection of the treaty leads one to fear that all things will not be as of yore. Then, in a very polite way, the Emperor hints that the exact words of the treaty will in the long-run prove more weighty than the assurances of the Czar. He goes on to say that the granting to Russia of the privileges asked in Manchuria would stir up other countries to make demands, and would lead to the downfall of China. So an appeal is made to the friendship and benevolence of the Czar, to withdraw all demands, and thus earn the warm gratitude of the Emperor of China and his millions of people.

The Viceroy, Lin Lui Yi and Chang Chih Tung, strongly protested to the Throne against the agreement, prophesying the destruction of the Empire and dynasty if it were sanctioned. Chang Chih Tung alone presented eight memorials on the subject. Other Viceroy and governors sent remonstrances. Public opinion waxed hot. Mass-meetings were held. Telegrams

began to fly through China and to St. Petersburg. Two telegrams sent by a Shanghai mass-meeting are given as samples:

"To Prince Ching and Grand Secretary Li Hung Chang, Peking:— If the treaty with Russia be ratified, China will be a lost country at once. Great indignation and opposition fill the hearts of the gentry and common people, and we pray that you will sternly oppose the ratification in accordance with right and reason, and so save the critical situation."

The telegram to the Chinese Minister at St. Petersburg read:

"The knowledge of the agreement with Russia has created immense excitement and stirred up great indignation amongst the gentry, *literati*, and common people of the Empire, and the aspect of affairs is now entirely changed. A great calamity now threatens China. We pray you to use your utmost exertions to prevent the accomplishment of the treaty."

High provincial authorities in the south also sent a telegram to the Foreign Office in St. Petersburg, requesting the Minister to explain on their behalf to the Czar that the ratification of the treaty would be against the wishes of more than nine-tenths of the officials, *literati*, and common people of China. For months the native press poured out its philippics against Russia. Throughout the length and breadth of the Chinese Empire, there was not one paper which spoke a word in favor of the agreement. Some of these polemics of the press, and fiery speeches delivered at mass-meetings, would prove instructive reading to the lecturers and writers on the Manchurian question who have broadly asserted that the Chinese were indifferent to the loss of Manchuria, and that Russia, by her sympathy for China and fair treatment of her, had won concessions which she was unwilling to grant to any other country. A few sentences from one of these mass-meeting speeches give the lie to such representations:

"Our Conservatives have felt grateful for the support they receive from Russia; hence a strong friendship has been formed between the two governments. Russia is very successful in deceiving China with her wicked yet pleasing ways, and that is how the secret treaty, now in question, has come into existence."

There follow strong words of dissuasion against leaning on the help of other nations, and the exhortation:

"We, the sons of China, are solely responsible for the future of our country. It has nothing to do with foreign nations. If we fear the destruction of China, if we are ashamed of becoming inferiors or slaves to foreigners, then let us unite our strength, morally and physically, to

protest against the ratification of the Manchurian Treaty. Although Russia is powerful, it matters not if we firmly determine not to submit to her. Such a movement will show that there is such a sentiment as love of country in China."

The Viceroys in their telegrams to Hsian said that, if it was necessary for the Court to choose between offending Russia and offending the other Foreign Powers, it would be safer to offend Russia. The matter was referred to Li Hung Chang, who replied, "If you have to make such a choice you had better make friends with Russia and offend the other Powers." This coincided with the views of the Empress Dowager, who had been persuaded that the only path of safety lay in securing the protection of her mighty neighbor. By what seductions was she made to believe that the safest place for the Manchurian Lamb was within the stomach of the Bear, to overlook the fact that when once the Lamb was digested the hunger of the Bear would prove a menace to the capital of the Empire?

The movements on the chess-board in March were of special interest, and ended in checkmating Russia for a time. The full text of the treaty had been sent from St. Petersburg to Li Hung Chang, and by him forwarded to Hsian. While he was waiting for his answer, the Powers, with the notable exception of France, were objecting to this *tête-à-tête* game between Russia and China, and demanding that the treaty be produced for public inspection. About the twelfth of March, it was rumored that an answer had come from Hsian refusing to ratify the treaty, and that the Chinese Minister at St. Petersburg had telegraphed to Li Hung Chang that the Russian government would reconsider and modify the treaty. Within a few days, these modifications were forwarded to Hsian, with the assurance that the treaty as modified did not interfere with China's sovereignty. But public opinion had made itself felt in the refugee court, and the protests of England, America, and Japan had put iron into the blood of China. She still refused to sign the treaty. It was rumored in Peking that, when the modified treaty was presented from St. Petersburg, it was accompanied by a vague, veiled threat that unless it was ratified within two weeks something unpleasant would happen. When the time expired, the Russian Minister called on Li Hung Chang, pressing him to sign the treaty immediately. Li replied that he had not received an edict authorizing

him to do this. Then it was reported that Russia had extended the time a few days, threatening that if this treaty was not signed she would force the original text, which practically cedes Manchuria to Russia, with an additional article, which lets the camel's head into the tent of Chihli province, to the effect that: "China shall not employ subjects of any other Power in training naval and military forces in the northern provinces."

At this point the Japanese Minister called on Li Hung Chang to try to stiffen China's backbone. On the second of April, Li and his associate plenipotentiary, Prince Ching, sent a communication to the Russian Minister, asking that further changes be made in the treaty; rumor said that this was refused, and the communication returned. The air of Peking was electric for several days, as another telegram came from St. Petersburg stating that, unless the seal of state were quickly affixed to that important document, Russia would proceed to seal Manchuria as her own peculiar possession. But by the eighth of the month it was known that neither the Emperor nor the Empress Dowager would sign the treaty. Russia was busily occupied assuring Japan that the treaty did not interfere with China's sovereignty, or with the rights of any other Power. The interesting lie gained credence in Peking that England was sending ninety gunboats to the Far East! Before the middle of April, it was generally known that the Bear had decided to postpone dining on Lamb. Russia made the following announcement:

"In consequence of the obstacles opposed to the Manchurian Agreement, whereof the object is gradual evacuation, the said agreement being still unsigned, Russia maintains her present organization in Manchuria, and continues in occupation until conditions in China are completely restored and a central government established in the capital capable of guaranteeing a non-recurrence of disturbances."

The direful vagueness about this time-limit throws the old-fashioned Delphic oracle completely into the shade. Still, for once, Russian diplomacy had been thwarted. She must bide her time for riveting the chains, until Foreign Powers and Chinese Progressives could be caught napping again.

Early in the summer, when the withdrawal of the Allies from China was under discussion, Viceroy Li and Chang petitioned the Throne to insist upon the recovery of Manchuria. The Emperor issued an edict stating that Manchuria is the home of the reigning dynasty; that if it is given up to a foreign country,

the important province of Chihli will become a borderland, and the integrity of the Empire will be threatened. This edict, of course, had no effect on the Russians, who remained in Manchuria on the withdrawal of the Allies.

Russia was unwilling to wait long before renewing her effort to obtain permanent control of Manchuria. Li Hung Chang was old and feeble, the Reactionaries might lose power at court, and the Progressives would grant no favor to Russia. As early as June, it was reported that Li Hung Chang had sent a lengthy cipher despatch to St. Petersburg resuscitating the Manchurian question. Definite negotiations, however, were not resumed until after Russia's new Minister, M. Paul Lessar, arrived in Peking late in September. The first half of October the usual secrecy was maintained. Then copies of the following agreement began to be circulated:

"(1) Russia agrees to return the whole of the three Eastern provinces comprising Manchuria to China; but, owing to the disturbed condition of the said provinces at present, Russia cannot withdraw her troops at once from Manchuria. At the end of two years, should conditions become fairer, Russia will withdraw one-half of her troops, in accordance with circumstances. Should the province at that time be already pacified, then by the end of three years Russia will withdraw all her troops from the country.

"(2) All the railways in Manchuria shall be constructed by Russia alone; China consents not to use the services of any other nationality in that respect, nor permit any other nation to hold railway privileges in said provinces.

"(3) All mines and mining privileges in Manchuria shall be given to Russia alone. China shall not allow any other nation to exploit the said provinces.

"(4) Only such Chinese troops as have been drilled and disciplined by Russians alone shall be permitted to garrison Manchuria. Troops that have not been drilled in Western fashion and troops that have been drilled and disciplined by other foreign nationalities shall not be allowed to be stationed in any part of Manchuria.

"(5) The railway between Shanhaikwan and Newchwang shall be returned to China, but in doing so China shall grant some other compensating privileges to Russia for the act."

This treaty begins with such a conciliatory tone, and the language throughout is so carefully guarded, that the casual reader can easily be hoodwinked. Still, Russia carefully guards her essential point, the withdrawal of her troops; and as she is to be the judge of whether the "conditions are fairer," this treaty

would practically grant to Russia all for which she was striving. She has provided that there shall be no troops in Manchuria which shall not work out her will, and "conditions" would doubtless be just what she desired them to be. Her plot might be foiled if she consented that the foreign-drilled troops of Yuan Shih Kai pacify the country. They might make a success of it, as they have done in Chihli!

While this treaty was under discussion in Peking, Jung Lu wrote to Li Hung Chang that the Empress Dowager wished to come to an agreement with Russia, believing that she could trust this powerful country to avert further foreign aggression, and also to give her personal protection on her return to Peking. But the Viceroy had taken the alarm, and again the voice of protest was heard. Lui Kun Yi telegraphed that it would be better to declare war on Russia than to sign the treaty. Some of the Powers made themselves disagreeable again by asking for an official copy of the treaty. On the first of November, Li Hung Chang received a communication from the Empress Dowager stating that the Viceroy had opposed the treaty so strongly that she had decided to denounce it. The Emperor also wrote in praise of a memorial submitted by Chang Chih Tung, and ordered that the scheme be matured by deliberate consultation in obedience to the honest promptings of his conscience. Li Hung Chang was thunderstruck. M. Lessar was furious. There was a stormy interview, but the Chinese Plenipotentiary insisted that he could not sign the treaty without the authority of an Imperial edict. The aged minister had received his death-blow, and as he lay unconscious on the morning of November seventh, M. Lessar called at his home, making one last desperate effort to get the signature of the man upon whom Russia had long depended.

Negotiations must now be carried on with Prince Ching and Wang Wen Shao. Prince Ching, though previously associated with Li Hung Chang as Plenipotentiary, had early resigned all negotiations with Russia, disgusted by the pro-Russianism of his more powerful colleague. Over these two Ministers Russia had failed to cast the spell either of her witchery or of her gold. So she tried terrorizing. On the eighth of November, a secret despatch from the Chinese Minister at St. Petersburg gave the warning that Russia fully intends to retain Manchuria or to impose terms which menace China's independence. For three weeks

the treaty lay in abeyance, for neither of the Chinese Ministers was in Peking. Prince Ching renewed negotiations with M. Lessar after he had returned from his conference with the Court at Kaifeng-fu, but asked that he might have time for consideration, as important interests were involved. Up to the present time, Prince Ching and Wang Wen Shao have refused assent, Russia has refused to withdraw her claims, and matters are at a deadlock.

It is unnecessary to describe at length how, regardless of her assurances to the Powers, regardless of the fact that China refused to sign even the modified treaty, Russia has strengthened her grasp on Manchuria, exercising every right of sovereignty, leaving to Chinese officials far less power than they had in Chihli during the year of occupation by the Allies. Russia has now over two hundred thousand soldiers quartered in Siberia and Manchuria. Her estimates provide for the maintenance of a hundred thousand men to guard the Manchurian railway. Did the granting of a concession to build a railroad and control it for a limited period, carry the right to seize a country larger than France, rich in resources, because in a time of war this railroad was damaged? The railroad from Peking southward, which is being constructed by a Belgian syndicate, has for months been guarded only by Chinese soldiers. Russia allows no Chinese soldiers in Manchuria, and refuses to withdraw her own because the country is not yet tranquil! No wonder that for years China objected to railroads, claiming that they would be the forerunners of complete foreign occupation, chains which would ultimately bind the land which they traverse to some foreign Power. It has been said that Russia understands perfectly the use of the "iron horse" in place of the war horse. America has just as good a right as Russia to invade Manchuria with a vast army, for her commercial interests have suffered more than Russia's. Of course, there are brigands in Manchuria. There are more to-day than when it was under Chinese rule. The longer the Allies stayed in Chihli, the more brigands there were. A few months of return to Chinese rule have worked wonders in quieting the province. But China is powerless to subdue brigandage in Manchuria as long as Russia requires her to do it with unarmed police. It is not true that the population of Manchuria consists largely of bandits and "ne'er do weels." Certain mountain regions have frequently been dis-

turbed by brigands, but law-abiding, industrious people, many of them from North China, compose the bulk of her population. Some of these people have been driven from their homes by the oppressive taxation of Russia. The *Universal Gazette*, a Chinese paper, reports that the inhabitants are being cruelly treated in every way, and ground down to the earth, apparently with the object of driving them out of the country to make way for Russian colonists.

Another consideration ought to carry some weight in America and England. There is no part of China where Protestant Missions have been more prosperous than in Manchuria. Gladly would the stricken survivors of Boxer massacres welcome back their missionary pastors. But Manchuria under Russian rule is not the place for Protestant Missions. The country which tolerates no proselyting in her home domains will suppress it in her foreign dependencies. Must the patient work of years, which has done more than Russia's much-praised railroad to introduce civilization and banish the darkness of Manchuria, be lost now? Must the native Christians be forsaken by those who persuaded them to abandon their ancient religion?

Let us summarize briefly the reasons why Russia should not be allowed to retain Manchuria. First, stands the eternal principle of right, supported by International Law. Russia has no moral claim on Manchuria. She has no legitimate commercial claim to be expressed by the glib term "Manifest destiny." Her exports and imports, like those of England and America, can pass through Manchuria without the presence of a single Cossack soldier to interfere with China's sovereignty. The commercial interests of the world demand her withdrawal. Missionary interests demand it. The peace of the world demands it. The good of China demands it. The world has decreed that China shall have one more fair chance to redeem herself. Russian rapacity menaces her peaceful development and prosperity.

L. MINER.